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Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region

TECHNICAL NOTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE MARITIMES IN MID-JUNE 1989

For our clients' information, we will again issue periodic reports on major forest pest conditions in 1989. Our aim is to highlight the more significant problems as they occur and give updates on their development. This report includes information on forest pest conditions, as currently known, in the Maritimes in mid-June 1989.

Weather, once again, influenced the development of both trees and pests. At one point, the season was almost two weeks behind normal. Precipitation in May and the early part of June was above normal and resulted in lush vegetation (and record high populations of mosquitoes).

Gypsy moth egg mass hunts (search and destroy activities) were conducted this spring in several communities where their presence was noted during last fall's preliminary surveys. Numerous egg masses were destroyed in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, and in St. Andrews and St. Stephen, New Brunswick. A few larvae were observed during the second half of May at some of the infested localities. Control efforts are being organized by the various agencies involved in keeping this serious pest in check; over 8500 pheromone traps will be deployed during the summer.

Oak leafroller, a perennial problem in red oak stands in much of western Nova Scotia in recent years, was active again and caused considerable defoliation. The insect, in some areas in combination with the oak leaf shredder, also caused defoliation of oak in parts of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Repeated severe defoliation during past years has already seriously weakened many trees in numerous stands.

Scleroderris canker (European race) has been identified in a Scots pine Christmas tree plantation near Edmunston, New Brunswick. The disease was found there in 1988 but test results were not available until recently. Discussions regarding control measures of this plant quarantine related situation are under way.

NURSERIES ☐

PLANTATIONS ☐

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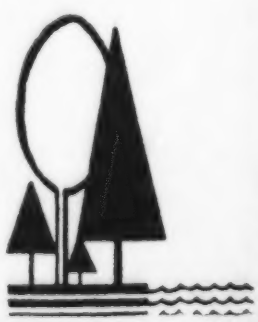
INSECTS AND DISEASES ■



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Overwintering seedling mortality in nurseries is one of the most serious problems observed so far this year.The loss of seedlings may have effects reaching far into the future. The exact cause of the condition is unknown but it is the result of a combination of factors, made more severe by the lack of snow cover last winter. Root development of seedlings was impaired and the seedlings were doomed in spite of the fact that their above-ground portion still appeared green. Thousands of seedlings were lost in several nurseries. One nursery lost an entire year's production of at least one species (over a million trees).

Larch casebearer populations are higher than last year and foliage discoloration was observed throughout Prince Edward Island, in much of New Brunswick, and parts of Nova Scotia. The level of discoloration is variable, only a trace in many areas, but some severely affected trees were also observed.

Eastern tent caterpillar tents are common in southern and eastern New Brunswick and in parts of Prince Edward Island. The insect is widespread in Nova Scotia but the number of tents found is low. Tents are found mostly, but not exclusively, on roadside cherry and apple trees. In some areas in southern New Brunswick, several tents were removed from single ornamental trees. The increase in the number of tents produced by the eastern tent caterpillar this year, reawakened memories of the forest tent caterpillar outbreak of a few years ago and resulted in a great number of inquiries from the public. However, the forest tent caterpillar, in spite of its name, does not build tents and there is no danger of an outbreak of that insect in 1989.

Pine leaf adelgid, a pest which alternates between white pine and spruce, caused the formation of great numbers of cone-like galls on red spruce in western Nova Scotia, especially in Queens, Lunenburg, Shelburne and Annapolis counties.

Pear thrips infestations in parts of New England in 1988 have caused alarm, especially among maple syrup producers. The pest has been found in Maine in the spring of 1989 but has caused no damage. In the Maritimes, several suspect samples were collected on sugar maple; however, since positive identification is still pending on these, no statement is possible this time, other than to state that no damage to date has been associated with these samples.

Other pests found active in the Region in the early part of the season included: **balsam wooly adelgid**, **jack pine needle rust**, **poplar serpentine leafminer**, **maple leaf roller**, **birch casebearer**, **poplar leafmining sawfly**, **cedar leafminer**, **Armillaria root rot**, **Sirococcus shoot blight**, **satin moth**, **spruce budworm** and browning of coniferous foliage due to **roadside salt damage**.

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

June 19, 1989